(c) if so, its impact on the working of ITDC' elite hotels, when the ITC group is its competitor in hotel business in some of the principal cities in the counrty and the long-term advantage which the ITC Hotels will derive from this acquisition of ITDC share-holdings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A total number of ten parties have submitted their bids for marketing and management tie-up for six ELITE hotels of ITDC. Since, the bids have not yet been finalised, it would not be in the business interest of ITDC to disclose the particulars of the bids.

(b) Govt. is not aware as to whether any of the successful bidders belong to the ITC group.

(c) The Govt. would still be holding 90 per cent of the shares of ITDC and thus would have full management control. In view of reply to part (b) above, the question of ITC Hotels deriving any advantage does not arise.

Direct Flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi

*320. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat to start a direct flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi and Capetown via Johannesburg;

(b) if so, what is the decision on the same;

(c) whether it is possible that Delhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat flights started recently by Indian Airlines, can be conveniently extended upto Nairobi;

(d) if so, the action proposed in the matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Proposals have been received from the Government of Gparat for starting direct flights from Ahmedabad to Niarobi and Johannesburg.

(b) Due to inadequate frame potential, the proposed services are not considered economically viable at present.

(c) to (e) The Dalhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat route is presently operated by Indian Airlines with A 320 aircraft which does not have the required range to undertake an economically viable flight upto Nairobi. Indian Airlines is also not a designated carrier under the India-Kenya bilateral air services agreement.

Free passes provided by Air India and Indian Airlines

3235. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free passes provided by Air India and Indian Airlines to persons other than employees-ex-employees or their dependents for the year 1992-93 with month-wise break-up;

(b) the notional cost of such passes; and

(c) the names and addresses of the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHUGHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The number of complimentary passes/tickets issued during 1992-93 by Air India and Indian Airlines to commercial contacts for business promotion under the discretionary powers of the Managing Directors and other specified officers was 529 and 263 respectively. Monthwise breakup is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.